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ACTION EA 19

INFO NEA 19,GPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,NSAE 00,L 03,
INR 07,P 04,CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAH 02,SAL 01,AID 30,
RSR 01,/157 W

R 071202Z AUG 67 ZFF KATHMANDU
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4176
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3707
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 687
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2106
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 127

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
IS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 2544

IINCPAC FOR POLAD

KATHMANDU FOR AMB BUNKER

SUBJECT: UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

1. THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE IS PROGRESSING VERY SLOWLY, AND STILL HAS SOME SERIOUS P
OBLEMS TO SOLVE.

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A SCHEDULE OF RADIO AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES HAS BEEN AGREED UPON, UNDER WHICH EACH SLATE WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF FIVE MINUTES EACH ON RADIO AND TELEVISION. SEVERAL SLATES HAVE APPEARED ALREADY EACH SLATE WILL ALSO HAVE THE USE OF A SOUND TRUCK ONCE FOR THIRTY MINUTES IN SAIGON.

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2. THE CANDIDATES WERE VERY DISTURBED SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO LEARN THAT THE PRINTERS WHO HAD BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE GVN TO PRINT THEIR CAMPAIGN POSTERS AND LEAFLETS HAD SUDDENLY, AND APPARENTLY IN COLLUSION, APPROXIMATELY DOUBLED THEIR PRICES. THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN SOLVED NOW. INSTEAD OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE HANDLING THE PRINTING FOR ALL OF THE SLATES, EACH SLATE WILL HANDLE ITS OWN, AND NOT BE RESTRICTED TO GVN-DESIGNATED PRINTERS. THIS GIVES THE INITIATIVE TO EACH INDIVIDUAL SLATE, AND MAKES POSSIBLE A WIDE VARIETY OF FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN EACH SLATE AND ITS PRINTERWM

3. ON TRANSPORTATION, HOWEVERWN THE COMMITTEE IS STILL ON

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DEAD CENTER. ON AUGUST 2, THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE VERBALLY REQUESTED THAT THE SCA PROVIDE PLANES TO TRANSPORT CANDIDATESBN PRESS CORPS, AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THEY WERE TOLD THAT THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, AND THAT IS THE LAST THEY HEARD OF IT.

4. TRANSPORTING 480 CANDIDATES, THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, PRESS AND CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AROUND THE COUNTRY WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT LOGISTIC PROBLEM, AND THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF THE REASON THAT THE GVN HAS NOT RESPONDED TO THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE'S REQUEST. HOWEVER, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT MANY OF THE CANDIDATES HAVE LITTLE INTEREST IN CAMPAIGNING EXTENSIVELY OUTSIDE OF SAIGON, AND NGUYEN TRAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, HAS SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE THE USE OF JUST THREE OR FOUR PLANES, PLUS ONE OR TWO OTHERS FOR A LIMITED TIME TO TRANSPORT CAMPAIGN MATERIALS. WE HAVE URGED TRAN TO GIVE SCA A FORMAL, WRITTEN

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REQUEST FOR A SPECIFIC NUMBER OF PLANES, IN HOPES THAT THE GVN WILL BE ABLE TO RESPOND MORE EASILY TO A SPECIFIC REQUEST. WE HAVE ALSO TOLD TRN THAT AMER ICAN PLANES WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON A SUBSTITUTE BASIS TO ENABLE THE GVN TO MAKE ITS PLANES AVAILABLE FOR CAMPAIGN PURPOSES.

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